

THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

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Natural Archway In Japan



All along the shores of the Japanese islands the traveler encounters most picturesque scenery, one of the most attractive regions being the Bay of Matsushima. In the southernmost island of Kyushu, a natural archway at Zaimoku island in that bay is shown in our illustration.

LONDON'S ABDUCTION CLUB

Clubs spring up with and without reason. One of the strangest on record was the abduction club, organized in 1798 by some well-connected Irish youths in London, who banded themselves together to abduct heiresses and good-looking young women of gentle birth. As there was a large membership, many forced marriages took place in consequence of their exploits. The evil became eventually so serious that a special act of parliament was passed making abduction a capital offense. Two of the members were executed for the abduction of two wealthy sisters in 1779, but the club was disbanded till 1802.

TAMRIDA MOSQUE, SOKOTRA



Not many tourists land at Sokotra island, in the Arabian sea, but those who do are well repaid by the many beautiful and interesting bits of scenery. Tamrida is the capital and the ancient mosque of that city is here shown. Sokotra is under British protection, but has a sultan of its own who receives an annual subsidy for preventing the looting of vessels that may be wrecked on his coasts.

GIANT'S SNEEZE BREAKS RIB

Joseph E. Flynn, assistant master at the Union railroad station in Washington, who stands 6 feet 2 inches in his stocking feet, weighs more than 200, and was formerly a football player, sneezed the other day with all the force that a man of his size and vigor usually puts into such a performance and broke one of his ribs.

Result of a Queen's Anger



One of the curiosities of London, both to look at from outside and for its traditional story, is St. John's church, South square, Westminster. According to one tradition—there are several variants—the extraordinary shape of the building, whence it gets its name, the "Footstool church," was due to a queen—"good Queen Anne"—having lost her temper one day. The architect worried Queen Anne about details of the design. Her majesty, at length losing patience, kicked her footstool over, and replied in anger: "Build it like that." The architect fulfilled the royal wishes, and the church was built as it stands today, with the corners protruding upwards like the four legs of a capsize stool.

USED HYMNS IN ARGUMENT

New York Pastor Who Has Been Having Trouble With His Wife, Victor After Campaign of Song.

New York.—In what seemed to be really a hymn contest, Rev. P. T. Martin, pastor of the Ocean Parkway Methodist church, one of the richest congregations in Flatbush, won out with hands down (in benediction) recently.

Pastor Martin still holds his job as a dominie, although a big fight was carried on to fire him by nearly half of the congregation. The meeting of the congregation was to elect four new trustees. Two slates were put up, one a Martin slate and the other an anti-Martin slate. On the election would hang the fate of the pastor. Of course, there was a woman at the bottom of it all, the pastor's wife in this instance.

The anti-Martins claimed the dominie had treated his wife as no God-fearing sky pilot should. He claimed she was crazy and a shrew and that her actions were such that he would have to give up religion if he continued to live with her.

So the line-up was made and a hot Martin partisan called for the hymn, "We Know in Whom We Have Believed." It was roared out lustily by the Martinites. As the last note ended, an anti-Martin called for the hymn "Only a Sinner," and the opposition put in all of its soul and voice for the rendition.

The minister rose and explained what the situation was and how he had done his best to get along calmly in matrimony, but hadn't been able to get away with it. He then opened his hymn-book and called for "I Can Now Read My Titles Clear." The administration adherents chanted it nobly, a corps of Flatbush tenors putting on the tremolo effect.

It was pretty near time for a vote and the leaders for either side passed around typewritten copies of their slates. The vote was taken and the administration trustees were elected easily.

SALUTE HEARSE FOR HOUSTON

Students Mistake Funeral Procession for Cabinet Member's Escort In St. Louis.

St. Louis.—Students and faculty members of Washington university greeted their chancellor, David H. Houston, the secretary of agriculture, when he arrived home from the national capital. A large reception committee met him at the Union station and escorted him to the university campus.

Plans had been made to let off seventeen bombs as the procession approached the campus.



David F. Houston.

proached the campus. Just before the Houston party arrived, however, a funeral procession passed, and, mistaking the cortege for the student parade, those in charge of the fireworks set off 16 of the bombs.

A loving cup was presented to Secretary Houston by the students.

MIGHT HAVE STOLEN FORTUNE

Five-Dollar-a-Week Employee in London Steals Only \$1,285 in Ten Years.

London.—The chief clerk in the borough treasury of Wigan confessed in the police court to having robbed the borough treasury of \$1,285 during the last ten years. The prisoner, his counsel demonstrated, held a highly respectable position, for which he received a salary of \$550 a year. He kept the keys of the strong room; during the year between \$350,000 and \$400,000 passed through his hands, and his books were never audited.

"I can only wonder at the chief clerk's moderation. One may as well be hanged for a sheep as for a lamb. To place a man in unchecked control of huge sums of money while paying him a paltry £2 a week is trying human nature too high, and employers who expose men to such temptation are little better than accessories to any crimes that may follow."

Berlin Giant Is Bowlegged.

Philadelphia.—Seven feet two inches is now the height of Julius Laubach, the giant who came from Berlin to grow up with the country. He is on his way to Chicago to have a famous surgeon add about four inches to his stature by straightening his bow legs.

BOY PLEADS FOR LIFE

In Terror of Turkish Butchers, Child Writes to U. S. Relatives.

Ottomans, Repulsed by Allies, Visit Wrath Upon the Christian Natives, Who Have No Escape—Youth Appeals to Grandmother.

Chicago.—Atrocities more revolting than those practiced upon Christians in the days of Nero are being visited upon Christian natives of Armenia, according to a vivid first-hand description that has reached Chicago. A pathetic plea for rescue from a terrible death has been sent by a little eleven-year-old Armenian boy whose grandmother and aunt have fled the country and have arrived in Chicago.

Supplemented by the knowledge of an aunt, Miss Elizabeth Dombourlian, who is staying at a missionary training school at 4949 Indiana avenue, the boy's letter indicates that the Balkan war has turned into a frenzied religious conflict. The Turks, who are being driven out of Europe by the Christians of the Balkan states, are wreaking vengeance upon the Armenians. Scores of Armenian citizens who have married Armenians are in as grave danger as the Armenians themselves, Miss Dombourlian declared.

The letter, written by Arsen Megerditchian, and sent from Dierbekir, Armenia, is as follows: "My Dear Grandma: Though I have not seen you I like to write to you because you are the mother of my darling mother. We are happy at home, but outside our condition is so sad that I do not know how to tell you. Cholera is on side, the Turks another side, the famine another; where shall we run? Thousands are leaving; we like to run away also, but in what way can we get away and how?"

"Now we warn you if something happened and we died then our sins will be upon your shoulders. 'We are in constant fear. Tomorrow we will kill you' (is a common saying). We cannot bear any longer so quick and take us there. 'Would you like if the heads of your grandsons were pulled off? If you do not, hurry up, Grandma, take us there quick.'"

"Till this letter reaches there it will be Christmas to you, so I kiss your hands. 'Grandma, don't you have any friends who would lend us ten Turkish pounds? I promise to pay back as soon as I come. We cannot stay here any longer. Your grandson, 'ARSEN MEGERDITCHIAN.'"

The boy is the son of Rev. Thomas Megerditchian, a secretary in the British legation at Dierbekir. As the wages paid to native assistants in the foreign legation of Armenia are extremely small, and little Arsen has many brothers and sisters, the father in spite of his anxiety has been unable to get the money necessary to get his family out of the country.

Rev. Johnston Myers took up the case of the distressed family. He expects to do what he can in assisting to raise \$600, which would be required to get little Arsen, his brothers, sisters and mother safely to America.

DOGS SCORPED BY COYOTES

Show No Hesitancy In Visiting Chicken Coops; Five of the Raiders Are Trapped.

Grass Valley, Cal.—Five coyotes and two wildcats were trapped within a few days in Penn valley by Will Tush. During the past several months the dogs all over the country have been muzzled and the coyotes seem to have realized that their privileges in the foraging line were increased.

They ventured close to the houses and appeared to have no fear of the muzzled dogs. But now that the fear of rabies has passed, the farmers have removed the muzzles, and for a night or two the dogs brought down several coyotes, although it required a stiff fight in some instances.

Other farmers in that section have been successful in trapping the animals, and in addition to ridding themselves of these chicken thieves and pests they will receive a bounty of \$2.50 each for the coyote scalps.

WOULD STAY WITH FRIENDS

Girl's Desire Carries No Weight With the Court—She Must Stay With Parent.

Los Angeles.—After repudiating her mother, Mrs. Eva Peterson, and telling the court that she preferred to live with Mr. and Mrs. Ethan Bittler, neighbors, ten-year-old Dorothea Stykala was forced to go with her mother by Judge Monroe in the superior court.

Bitter feeling was displayed in court by the Bittlers and Petersons, Bittler and the girl's stepfather nearly coming to blows several times during the hearing. The two women are said to have engaged in a fight over the custody of the child prior to the invoking of the law by the Petersons.

The Bittlers, who are childless, alleged that the Petersons did not support the child, who had lived with them for several years.

Surplus Fish Causes Death.

Savannah, Ga.—Melissa Cooper, a colored woman of Guyette county, this state, increased in weight in five months from 150 pounds to 613 pounds and died when her surplus flesh stopped her heart from beating.

LOVE DUKE'S AMERICAN WIFE

Chief Interest of Duchess of Marlborough is the Welfare of Humbler Classes.

London.—"If a vote were taken among the poor as to who is the most popular lady in London, Queen Alexandra probably would be first, but the duchess of Marlborough a close second, for the interest which she takes in the welfare of the humbler classes is not spasmodic.

It has become her chief interest in life and, like a genuine American, she insists on doing as much personally as she time will permit, instead of following the easier English way of doing good by proxy.

Recently she has been very much taken up with the working of "Albion House," established in the heart of Kensington laundry, to help poor washerwomen and other humble female toilers. This house was until quite recently a saloon, but is now a



Duchess of Marlborough.

residential club and restaurant run by the National Association of Women's Lodging Houses.

The duchess dropped into the club the other day to have afternoon tea with the inmates and greatly enjoyed a large cup of tea and two "slinkers," supplied at the reasonable price of one penny. When she went away there was not one of the women or girls who would not go through fire or water for the American duchess.

RESTORE OLD MEETING HOUSE

South Structure in Boston Has Its Ancient Features Again After Paint Is Washed Off.

Boston, Mass.—If those British dragons who sailed away from Boston 137 years ago could return to the scenes of their riding exploits they would probably recognize the Old South meeting house as it has emerged today from beneath the drab paint of nearly a century. The historic edifice was built in 1726 of red brick, but for some reason which does not appear on its records the outside walls were painted in the spring of 1815.

The meeting house narrowly escaped destruction in the big fire of 1872 as well as a few years later, when an association was hurriedly formed to prevent its being supplanted by a business block. The success which attended the efforts of the state in bringing out the ancient features of the old statehouse, farther down Washington street, by washing off the paint prompted the Old South association to follow, and the last trace of paint was removed.

MADE TORCH OF HIS WIFE?

Boy Says Father Poured Gasoline on Her and Lighted It—Woman Dies of Injuries.

Nutley, N. J.—A neighbor who heard screams in the home of Peter Deskwitz in South Center street ran into the house and found Mrs. Deskwitz lying on the floor enveloped in flames and Deskwitz trying to save a burning tablecloth. The woman died in the Passaic hospital, Deskwitz fled.

The Deskwitzes' nine-year-old son Michael told the police that his father held the woman, poured the contents of two big bottles of gasoline over her and lighted it with a match.

Mrs. Deskwitz was forty years old and Deskwitz is twenty-eight. Deskwitz had been out late the night before. When his wife was preparing breakfast this morning she complained of his conduct and they quarreled. Deskwitz has been a fireman in the employ of the New York Telephone company.

EACH FOUR TIMES WEDDED

Man of Seventy-Three Hobbies to Al-tar to Marry Woman Ten Years His Junior.

Belleville, Ill.—When J. H. Scott, seventy-three years old, and Mrs. Anna V. Brim, sixty-three years old, were married here, Scott took his fourth bride and Mrs. Brim, for the fourth time became the wife of a Civil war veteran. Scott hobbled to the court house on crutches, the result of a bullet wound received at the battle of Shiloh.

Statue of Virgin in Tree.

Paris.—While cutting up a century old fir tree on the Simpson foresters found in the heart of the trunk a bronze statue of the Virgin Mary. It was about a foot tall and perfectly preserved. It is supposed that the statuette was placed in a niche carved in the tree and that the wood gradually grew all around it.



TAXPAYERS URGE GOOD ROADS

Representatives of Both Town and Country Vote in Favor of Tax to Create a State Fund.

There never has been in the past so much discontent over the discomfort of traveling over mud-roads as there is at the present time. While it is well known that the making of hard roads in communities where there is no hard material must involve an enormous expense, yet more and more taxpayers are expressing a willingness to be taxed for permanent roads. This was plainly indicated at a conference held in Des Moines, Ia., where 200 delegates composed of typical representatives of both town and country voted unanimously in favor of a one-mill tax to create a state aid fund, says the Iowa Homesteader. In the past the best that Iowa has been able to do along this line has been to support a non-salaried highway commission with but little power and with practically no money to work with.

This same conference endorsed almost unanimously the establishment of a permanent highway commission with ample power. In addition a recommendation was made to the legislature to submit the question of bonding the state for good roads purposes to the people at the next general election.

We appreciate the fact that this program is not endorsed by all the people and it is just possible that at the present time it may not meet with the endorsement of even a majority, but the rapidly changing feeling indicates that the time will soon come when all states of the corn belt will undertake the construction of permanent roads. This being the case the question of administration in the important one to decide. In this matter there are established precedents which may be safely followed and these precedents in every case tend in a greater or less degree to centralization. In other words, wherever good roads have been economically built in this country they have been built under the general supervision of the state under a plan of co-ordination with the county and with the township.

No plan will every work out practically in the corn belt that does not in a large way leave with the locality the authority to say when they are willing to bear the expense of good roads. When it is decided to incur the expense of building permanent roads the township, county and state will as units find themselves compelled through the operation of a sound business principle to adopt plans and specifications prepared by the best available talent, whether this be furnished by the nation or by the state.

The most urgent need at the present time in all states of the corn belt is the classification of highways in order that the question for all time may be settled as to what constitutes main roads and which are the secondary highways. This recommendation was made to the legislature at the Iowa road conference referred to. When this plan is once carried out we will then know definitely the order in which our roads should be permanently improved. It is a well-known fact that 90 per cent. of the rural traffic is carried on over 10 per cent. of the highways and certainly the first move should be to improve this ten per cent. In the meantime we are strongly in favor of keeping the secondary roads in the best possible condition by the construction of suitable culverts wherever they are needed and by the sensible and compulsory use of the drag. There will always be large and important township and county ditches so that no man need have fear that the adoption of permanent road administration will in any way interfere with the principle of local government.

BIG DISAPPOINTMENT IN OHIO

Buckeye State Failed to Pass Appropriation of \$50,000,000 to Improve Its Roads.

The greatest disappointment of last year was the vote of Ohio on the constitutional amendment to authorize the general assembly to issue bonds of the state in an amount not to exceed \$50,000,000 for the purpose of constructing and maintaining an inter-county system of wagon roads. The vote was: for, 272,527; against, 274,618; majority against, 2,091. This close vote was all the more unfortunate because the issue was not decided on its merits. Forty-two amendments were voted on, and in the zeal to defeat some of them, thousands of voters slaughtered all. So under the circumstances, it was probably surprising that the vote in favor was as large as it was. But it is a shock to find that such a state as Ohio out of 1,350,000 qualified voters less than 600,000 took the trouble to go to the polls to vote on constitutional amendments, and not all of these paid any attention to good roads.



ROAD BUILDING

MAKE BETTER PUBLIC ROADS

Experience Has Taught That Much Work Can Be Done During the Winter and Early Spring.

At this time of year much interest is aroused concerning road improvement. As has been found out by experience, much work can be done to earth roads early in the season, in fact, during the winter and spring when they soften, if they are systematically dragged there is no equal amount of work that can be done with as good effect at any other time of the year.

The law permits the highway commissioners to make contracts with persons living alongside a road to do the dragging. To facilitate this work, the state highway commission has just issued blank contract forms which may be used by commissioners in making their contracts, says the Farm Home. These blank forms are bound with stubs attached like an ordinary check



Crushed Rock Road in Missouri.

book and are very convenient. They will be furnished free of charge to any highway commissioner who will apply for them to the state highway commissioner, Springfield, Ill.

The commission has also just issued a pamphlet on the procedure that should be taken when a vote on hard roads is proposed. Much time and expense will be saved if all who are interested in having positions circulated and vote taken will be sure that all steps have been taken in accordance with the law. Instances are constantly arising where through a misstep at some point or other the whole proceeding is made invalid, causing delay and expense. Any one wishing information concerning the township hard road law of the state of Illinois can get the pamphlet here mentioned free of charge on application to the Illinois highway commission, Springfield, Ill.

GOOD ROADS IN CALIFORNIA

Pacific Coast State Ranks Next to New York in Making Appropriations for Improvement.

Next to New York, California is doing the big thing in road building. It has 2,300 miles of main routes and 400 miles of laterals, and it is spending its lump appropriation of \$18,000,000, of which it is said, "Approximately 70 per cent. of the burden will fall upon the incorporated cities." California communities have the spirit of the times. For instance, Los Angeles county alone spent \$3,500,000 on oil macadam highways.

In Alabama a system of trunk roads from north to south and from east to west has been laid out. Louisiana has spent almost \$10,000,000 in four years. Mississippi counties have declared bond issues of \$600,000, and the state will spend millions in the next three years. Utah spent \$2,000,000 in the past two years. Minnesota is preparing to build 2,700 miles of road next year. Maryland has got its road-building under a rigorous system. Its newest program calls for about \$5,000,000 in two years in the 23 counties. This is the latest expert knowledge.

FILLING ROADS AND STREETS

Modern Transportation Demands Best of Throughfares—Aim Should Be to Even Filling.

When graveling streets, if the outside are filled first and the stones raked toward the center and covered, it will leave the surface in nice condition. When the center is filled first it is impossible to cover the stones with the thin covering at the outside of the fill. I noticed a village street that was being raised ten inches with coarse gravel. The center was filled first and the coarse stones raked to the outside. It required twice the time to do the grading as if the outside had been filled first and the coarse stones raked toward the deep part of the fill in the center, writes an expert in the Farm and Home. Moreover, the street is sprinkled with stones that could not be covered, which will make extra expense to haul away, and it will be rough road for years to come.